

THE TRUE DEMOCRAT.

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Tallahassee, Friday, March 10, 1905.

Answers have been filed in the suit against the paper trust in the Minnesota courts. What the sequel may be no man can predict.

In Germany recently a judge of a criminal court was impeached for "exhibiting lust of power and arbitrariness." We do things differently here in America.

At her trial in Cleveland, on the first day, Mrs. Cassie Chadwick completely collapsed and had to be removed from the court room. Verily, the way of the transgressor is hard—when punishment comes.

It certainly does look as if the autocratic power of "the Czar of all the Russias" is about to be broken and destroyed. What the Russian masses would make of their country if they should overthrow the monarchy and undertake to govern it as a republic, following the example of the French people, no prophet could possibly predict.

Dr. Osler, of Baltimore, who is nearly 57 years old, informed the students of Johns Hopkins University the other day that after 40 years of age men are comparatively useless, and after 60 absolutely worthless. The learned doctor has proven the truth of his proposition in his own case, certainly; but that is no reason why it should apply to anybody else.

The survivors of the Southern Confederacy, as well as their descendants, will be sorrowfully interested in the announcement of the death, at his home in Palestine, Tex., at the age of 86, of Hon. John H. Reagan, the last surviving member of the Confederate cabinet, having served as Postmaster-General during the entire existence of the Confederate government.

Th's time it was not the unexpected that happened. Most of us knew it was coming. Representative Cohoe, of Kentucky, last week introduced in the House a concurrent resolution to annex the republic of Panama to the United States. When that is safely accomplished the republic of Mexico and the Dominion of Canada will receive attention.

Greene and Gaynor, the distinguished fugitives from justice who have been safely luxuriating in Canada for several years past, were rearrested at Quebec last week, and taken to Montreal to perfect extradition proceedings. The British Privy Council having overruled the Canadian courts, these parties will now have to return to this country and stand their trial upon numerous indictments pending in the federal courts of Georgia.

President Andrew Sledd, of the University of Florida, and Prof. Tom P. McBeath, editor of the Florida School Exponent, are conducting a controversy on the subject of compulsory education in the columns of that publication. Many adherents of both sides will peruse these arguments with academic interest, but it is doubtful if a single member of the Legislature will read one of them. And that body is expected to consider the passage of a law providing for compulsory education!

The decision of the United States Court of Appeals, at New Orleans, granting a new trial to Mrs. Helen Wilman-Post, convicted of using the mails for illegal purposes, has attracted considerable attention. The opinion of Judge Shelby is regarded as exhaustive of the questions and issues involved, the closing paragraph being as follows: "In dealing with the issues involved we have not intended to express any opinion as to the substantiality of mental science or whether it is founded on some occult law or mere parade and mummery. The court is not a society for physical research, charged with the duty of forming and announcing opinions on the subject. We have endeavored only to make it plain that there is nothing in this case to require a departure from the ordinary rules of evidence and familiar criminal procedure."

Our present Board of County Commissioners have set out to have the county court house repaired and put in neat, comfortable and attractive shape. All public buildings should be so.

ABOUT IMMIGRATION.

Considerable interest has been manifested throughout the State in a movement originating with certain parties in Jacksonville, having for its purpose "the establishment of an immigration bureau," with headquarters in that city, for the creation of which a bill is to be introduced and carried through the Legislature, if possible, at the approaching session.

If by "the establishment of an immigration bureau" at Jacksonville is meant a private institution, operated locally, in aid of immigration and the sale and settlement of now vacant and unoccupied lands, there can be no valid or reasonable objection raised to the enterprise. Indeed, it would be well if every county in the State should organize just such an institution. Too much cannot be done, on rational and practical lines, towards the accomplishment of the purpose. And some of the details of the Jacksonville project, as stated in the newspapers, are well worthy of the thoughtful consideration of all who may interest themselves in this important subject.

But if it is intended, as a part of the plan, to create an organization which shall constitute a branch or bureau of the State government, fixing its location at Jacksonville, or at any other point than the Capital of the State, the promoters will find themselves confronted by constitutional and legal obstacles which will be hard to overcome. The Constitution provides [Art. IV, Section 26.] that "the Commissioner of Agriculture . . . shall keep the bureau of immigration." The official residence of the Commissioner being at the Capital, he could not "keep the bureau of immigration" elsewhere, or delegate to any other person or official, or group of persons, anywhere but at the Capital, the duty imposed upon him by the Constitution. Such precedents as have been established by statutory enactment contemplated the "establishment" of such institutions at the Capital, directly under the charge of the Commissioner, and aided in the performance of his duties by the Governor and other State officers.

The requirements of practical and effective work in the interest of immigration to Florida are many and varied. Judicious and extensive advertisement of the resources of the State and the opportunities afforded to newcomers, stands first in the list, of course. So far as he has been able, without adequate means, to accomplish this primary purpose, the Commissioner of Agriculture has labored faithfully. What is now needed (much more than any other appliance or instrument or new organization), is a sufficiently adequate appropriation to enable him to distribute, throughout this country and abroad, the information concerning the State which he has collected and has recently put into convenient form for distribution. Thus far the work has been already done; all that is needed is to place this information in the hands of prospective or possible immigrants, to the end that they may intelligently consider the question of removal to Florida and select the location within the State best suited to their plans and purposes.

The intelligent and adequate distribution of the State hand-book naturally involves much more than the sending of copies to those who may apply for them, large as this particular branch of the work has grown to be. It should include editions printed in one or more foreign languages for distribution abroad. In an address before the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce a short time ago, Mr. J. K. Orr, the president of that body, said that when he was in Europe he noticed many maps of the United States which had been scattered everywhere for the purpose of advertising the West, particularly the lands owned by the western railways. But the feature of many of the maps that attracted his attention was this: The southern States were represented by a blank, across which were the words: "The Black Belt, Don't go There," or "The Yellow Fever Country, Avoid it." "If we are to get immigrants," continued Mr. Orr, "we must correct the damaging impression of the South these western roads have scattered abroad. We must send maps to Europe stating just what sort of a country the South is, and what its advantages are for home-seekers."

"A little money judiciously spent in advertising in sections of Europe from which the kind of immigrants come that would be acceptable to the South would do an immense amount of good. As a matter of fact, nowhere in Europe among the class that furnishes the immigrants, is there much known about the South. It is time that something

was being done to make the South known in localities from which immigrants are desired."

Next to the effective and extensive advertisements, at home and abroad, of Florida's resources and possibilities, comes the proper reception of those who come and assistance in finding, at the least possible expenditure of their time and means, of what they desire in the way of location and employment. That the promoters of the "Jacksonville plan" have wisely considered this branch of the subject is evidenced by the following statement of one of the details of their proposition: "To have some practical farmer, who knows how to reach this class of people and how to interest and direct them to take charge of the field work, and to see that no prospector comes to the State who is not looked after carefully and that every plan is exhausted to locate him where he can make a success."

And on this topic the Gainesville Sun has aptly said: "What is needed is some plan whereby people may not only be induced to come to Florida, but be guided and directed after their arrival. Too many people come here from the North who are misguided and who are not sufficiently informed to intelligently take advantage of the many resources that the State has to offer to the home-seeker. The failure of the State to look after this class cost Florida hundreds of thousands of dollars this winter. Never has there been such a tide of travel southward as that which has come here this fall and winter. Thousands have come to Florida, and they have constituted a class anxious to locate if they could do so to advantage. Thousands have returned home because they were unable to grasp the advantages which the State had to offer, or even see anything of advantage for them here."

With a fund at his command sufficient for the purpose there appears to be no good reason why the Commissioner could not "keep the bureau of immigration" in such a manner as to meet this, as well as all other requirements of the situation. And he could certainly conduct his operations much more economically, by the employment of such competent assistants and subordinates as might be needed, than could any outside or co-ordinate institution possessing a separate existence minus the official authority now lodged in him by the terms of the Constitution.

A recent issue of the Savannah Morning News contained a statement to the effect that the officials of the Georgia, Florida and Alabama Railroad had perfected arrangements for the location of several colonies along its line in DeKalb, Early, Randolph, Miller and Calhoun counties, in Georgia, and Gadsden, Leon and Franklin counties, Florida. "Two of the colonies," says the News, "are to be in Franklin county, Florida," and "another will be established about ten miles north of Tallahassee, on Lake Jackson." The same parties are also taking much interest in the development of the town of Lanark, and the moving spirit in all of these enterprises is Mr. J. P. Williams, the president of the road. This is practical immigration, and it is also the policy of other Florida railroad corporations. It will be strange, indeed, if the Legislature, with such object lessons before it, should refuse to aid in the great work of populating the State, to the extent, at least, of placing in the hands of these active and powerful agencies the means of furnishing to prospective settlers complete and trustworthy official information concerning Florida in the shape of a large edition of the excellent pamphlet just published by the Commissioner of Agriculture.

The terrible collision which occurred at Sanderson last Saturday, caused by an open switch which should have been closed, suggests the possibility of a weak place in the operating management of many railroads, especially in the South. Such accidents are liable to occur any day, of course, and the real cause may not be apparent until disclosed by a rigid investigation; but the practice of committing the lives of passengers and crew and the costly property of the company and its patrons to the sole care of the lowest class and poorest paid employees is one that should receive the immediate and devoted attention of the higher officials, to the end that the possibility of such occurrences may be reduced to the minimum, and that the utmost possible safety of persons and property may be assured.

Hon. W. J. Hillman was a visitor to the Capital this week. Mr. Hillman is one of the coming men of Florida, and has been already named as a possible candidate for the Governorship.

PROFESSIONAL POLITICIANS.

Concerning these ubiquitous knights of industry, the Brooksville Southern Argus holds forth as follows:

The fact is that specimens of this class of degenerates fester in and menace the public peace and prosperity of local communities in all parts of our free country. The cry of the newspapers against them is the discharge of a simple duty which they owe to the communities in which they are published.

One of the greatest afflictions that can be visited against a town, neighborhood or county is the imposition of a rabid politician upon it, especially at seasons when all classes of the population should be immersed in business, and industriously working for their own individual prosperity and general welfare.

Persistent publicity, through the local press, gives abundant promise of ridding afflicted communities of the incubus of that class of mischief-makers whose sole business is to foment discord and incite antagonisms among friends.

In the absence of legitimate party opposition, factionalism will prevail, and when devoid of unseemly personalities will serve a most excellent purpose. But if the vicious methods of the expert professional office-hunter are allowed to prevail, factionalism may degenerate into something far worse than bitter and unreasoning partisanship.

The events of last year's primary campaigns constituted a wholesome and valuable object-lesson to every Florida Democrat. They vigorously emphasized the sort of politics which should be avoided in future contests, and warned the friends and advocates of the primary system that its misuse, for personal purposes, would never again be tolerated by Florida's Democracy.

We published last week an account of the formation of a Florida club by thirteen students from Florida at the University of Virginia, and have since seen an account of a banquet given by another group of Florida boys at Emory College, Ga., where seventeen Floridians are receiving an education. The club, and the banquet, were alike creditable to the State pride of these thirty young men, who desire, in their absence from home, to do honor to their State; but the reflection will obtrude itself that if their parents had possessed a little more State pride they would have sent their sons to some one of the many very excellent schools in Florida, where they could have secured their education without going so far away from home.

The Bartow Courier-Informant, referring to what is known as "the free pass evil," boldly takes the position that a law should be enacted requiring the management of every railway and steamship line to issue free transportation to every official of the State government, arguing as follows with rare plausibility: "The railways have been granted special rights and privileges for the conduct of their business by the State, and we believe that a demand for free transportation of the State's servants is a claim wholly within the bounds of equity. If such a measure should prevail it would place the holder of a pass entirely beyond obligation to a railway, and if there is evil abetted by the present method of giving passes it would cease, conducing to better and purer government." We are not quite prepared to second the proposition, and prefer to leave the matter to the judgment of the Legislature. So far as free passes to newspaper men are concerned, they are not at all affected by the discussion of the question. They simply exchange advertising space for transportation—a quid pro quo—and feel under no obligations to advocate everything which the railroad managements favor or desire.

Some People Are Blind to Chances.

It is a dangerous thing to wait for opportunities until it becomes a habit. Energy and inclination for hard work ooze out in the waiting. Opportunity becomes invisible to those who are doing nothing, or looking somewhere else for it. It is the great worker, the man who is alert for chances who sees them.

Some people become so opportunity-blind that they cannot see chances anywhere—they would pass through a gold mine without noticing anything precious—while others will find opportunities in the most barren and out-of-the-way places. Bunyan found opportunity in Bedford jail to write the greatest allegory in the world on the untwisted paper that had been used to cork his bottles of milk. A Theodore Parker or a Lucy Stone sees an opportunity to go to college in a chance to pick berries. One boy sees an opening to his ambition in a chance to chop wood, wait on table, or run errands, where another sees no chance at all. One sees an opportunity to get an education in the odds and ends of time, evenings and half-holidays, which another throws away.—Orison Swett Marden, in Success Magazine.

Cotton continues coming in occasionally at Shine's warehouse. The price is 7 cents.

A DASH OF COLD WATER.

The Bartow Courier-Informant indulges in the following rather caustic comment upon Governor Broward's Everglade drainage scheme:

That hobby of a forlorn hope which landed Mr. Broward in the executive chair—the drainage and saving to the State of the Everglades—is waxing fat and arrogant, and bids fair to take up a large portion of the time of the Legislature, possibly to the detriment of far more important business. Already the State funds are being liberally used that the Governor and his cabinet may take junketing trips of inspection. To what end no one knows. Were it not a matter of public concern, the sublime confidence and egotism of this board of trustees of the internal improvement fund would be a subject for laughter. Seriously it passes judgment and gives opinions off-hand upon questions which would puzzle experienced civil engineers, and the gullible public swallows the unbaked dose as though it were a mass of taffy. Probably there is no way to check this Everglade drainage fad, but the Legislature should act with common sense and restrain the Governor from all action except by the advice of an expert engineering commission.

Neither the Courier-Informant nor any timid citizen need fear that Governor Broward will need to be restrained from hasty or ill-advised action in the premises. No one, perhaps, realizes more fully than he does the enormous magnitude of the drainage project which he would gladly see inaugurated, at least, during his administration. And the Legislature may be relied upon to view the scheme in its just proportions.

The idea, which appears to be prevalent in some quarters, that the Legislature may be induced to appropriate such funds as can be spared for the purposes of the enterprise, to the manifest injury or neglect of other great public interests, is without foundation, in fact or intention, so far as can be learned. The only rational method in sight for the accomplishment of this stupendous work will be to find another Disston—several of them, in fact—able and willing to incur the expense, taking a reasonable proportion of the lands reclaimed in compensation. That this is quite within the bounds of possibility cannot be denied.

Suppose we all wait until the Governor has an opportunity to define his present attitude upon the subject, and then there will be something tangible to discuss.

THE FLORIDA PRESS.

Clippings and Comment Taken from the State Newspapers.

There is a movement on foot to have the coming session of the Legislature enact a new game law. It strikes us very forcibly that an execution of the present law would bring about a change that would have the desired effect. There are too many dead laws on our statute books now. What we want is an enforcement of these laws.—Lakeland Sun.

It will soon be time for the winter visitors to turn their faces homeward. If Florida exerted as great an effort to bring permanent settlers to the State as it does tourists, the State would be better off. After living in Florida towns having winter "visitors" and those not having them, we have long ago reached the conclusion that one permanent settler is worth a dozen winter visitors. In short, the winter tourist business is overdone, and the tourists seem to have an idea that the State would go to the demitition bow-wows if it were not for their annual visit.—Wauchula Advocate.

The time is drawing near for the convening of the Legislature. April first all eyes will be turned toward Tallahassee. Let us hope that the new laws made will be few.—Blountstown Democrat.

Will some kind friend who has been to school kindly tell us the real meaning of the word "professor" and its appropriate use? Should it be prefixed to the name of every cross-road school teacher holding barely a third-grade certificate? We should like to have some light on the subject.—Bristol Bee.

The Florida Legislature will convene in April, and it is said the dispensary and State uniformity of text-books will play an important part. By defeating both of these measures and adjoining sine die the members would reflect great credit upon themselves and the State at large.—Quincy Times.

If Governor Broward succeeds in carrying out this project [draining the Everglades] without too much expense to the State, he will have made himself one of the greatest men in the country. If the work that he has mapped out is successfully accomplished, Napoleon Bonaparte Broward will become a national figure. He has many of the sturdy elements that make great men, and he will have the enthusiastic support of the great majority of the people in Florida in this stupendous undertaking. It will be well, however, for the Governor and the board to be very careful in this matter, not to plunge the State into any great debt that it will find difficulty in taking care of in the future. A thorough investigation of the matter should be encouraged by everybody, and the results will be anxiously awaited by the progressive people of Florida.—Ft. Pierce News.

The sewerage contractors are pushing work on Tallahassee's sewerage system.